

East Germany

Military Information from Bernburg

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

15 December 1952 to 15 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

18 February 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

Source who, on 15 December 1952, had reported that the Adolf Hitler Kaserne in Bernburg was occupied as previously by 2,000 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets and, a few, red-bordered black epaulets with and without tank insignia, was not able to determine the situation in the barracks installation from 17 December 1952 to 15 January 1953. More than half of the officers and the cadre personnel were new arrivals. The arrivals included a colonel of the armored command and a colonel of the Corps of Engineers. Small details continually arrived or left by rail or truck, and sometimes were absent for several weeks. A local resident stated that some officers were still in Rossau, and NCOs stated that they would return to Breslau. Columns of 3 to 4 trucks loaded with wooden frames frequently left the installation, allegedly for the old water training site at Dessau-Aken. From 17 December 1952 to 15 January 1953, the installation was occupied beyond capacity, and even the rooms in the attic were used as quarters. The number of recruits was estimated at 400 men. The construction of landing bridges was often practiced on the stagnant branch of the Saale River, and the laying of antitank mines was observed several times. The AF unit engaged in the training of radio operators on removed radio sets. Motor vehicles seen leaving and entering the installation

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Comment. According to the observations by source [redacted] the unidentified engineer regiment of the GDR with its tank battalion can be confirmed in its previous quarters in the Adolf Hitler Kaserne until 15 January 1953. [redacted] It is possible that more than 50 percent of the officers and the cadre personnel have been exchanged during the personnel exchange in November and December 1952. The alleged occupation beyond capacity of the installation cannot be accounted for. The details observed leaving the installation may have been detached for instruction courses. Breslau probably was confused with Rossau.

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